



Diagram of the model homestead designed by specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture. This arrangement presumes a location east of a highway. The same general scheme is applicable to locations facing the highway from other directions, but the arrangement should be changed in some matters of detail, especially the orientation of buildings. The model, of course, isn't suited to all conditions but combines the principles the department experts advocate. The subject is covered fully in Farmers' Bulletin 1132, entitled "Planning the Homestead" which may be secured free from the United States Department of Agriculture. Other advice can be procured from the rural engineering division of the department. At the top is a front view of the Department of Agriculture's model homestead. At the right is shown the back view of model homestead designed by the rural engineering division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Below is the side view of the model homestead.



The Farmstead—Its Possibilities

By AARON HARDY ULM

THE inexperienced beginner in farming here in America may find guiding standards for virtually everything except the farmstead, probably most important of all.

"The pioneering stage in human housing is prolonged beyond the pioneering stage in animal and crop housing," says Professor C. J. Galpin, economist in charge of rural life studies for the United States Department of Agriculture. "The modern farmhouse follows at some distance the modern dairy barn."

The problem of proper housing on the farm involves a great deal more than the erection of a suitable dwelling or the construction of a barn designed for efficiency. The dwelling bears an important relation to the farthest corner of the farthest field in the entire farm. Even the side of the road upon which it is situated, its orientation with regard to the points of the compass, and its position with reference to other items of the farmstead organization are of exceedingly high importance, say Uncle Sam's rural engineers.

It is probable that the most elegant type of farmstead, that represented by the extravagant "country place" of the wealthy banker or business man who believes that he can show practical farmers how to farm, is the most misleading. Whatever the costly engineering and decorative skill presented by them, they nearly always involve investments that are beyond the earning power of farming lands. Hence they are uneconomic.

The worst ones are the other extremes, a group of buildings thrown up merely to afford the human beings and the live stock protection against the elements. Whatever the apparent economies made in the beginning, such a place in the long run is invariably less profitable than the one carefully planned.

The farmstead, say rural engineers, need not be an expression of wealth or the lack thereof. Of course if all the desirable appurtenances are included, the establishment necessarily involves the spending of money as well as care and energy.

But the farmstead of the humble two or three-horse farmer can present a model of livableness just as well as a lack of order and proportion, as many of them do.

"If the average farmer were told that at some time during the year he would find it necessary to take a trip of 150 to 200 miles on foot carrying food, milk, or harness he would object strenuously, and say that under no circumstances could he spare the time," says the Department of Agriculture. "Yet hundreds of farmers are taking the equivalent of such trips every year because of the unnecessary steps which result from a poor arrangement of farm buildings."

And the most convenient arrangement of buildings as well as the most healthful and economic arrangement of the entire farmstead means the better-appearing farm place.

The Department of Agriculture is doing much to promote better farmsteads. If its suggestions were carried out by all farmers for a few years our national landscape would be adorned uniformly by good looking as well as efficient farm places, instead of presenting the spotted appearance that now often makes us wonder if farm places are homes or just make-shift habitats.

The work, of course, begins with the laying out of the farm and the planning of the homestead from the ground up. Working plans have been developed and actual models of homesteads suitable to differing conditions have been made, and all the data are available to any farmer in the country.

Offhand one might think it easy, for example, to select a site on a given acreage for the farm home and its environs. But it is quite a complex matter. Even with all other factors equal, the question of whether a farmstead should be on a public road is not easily answered. If it is a small farm beside a good road, it may be best to have the farmstead near the road, as then it has superior social contact with the outside world. But if it is a large farm, it may be better to locate the farmstead away from the road, to save

THIS is the first of a series of articles on the farmstead, as written by Mr. Ulm for The Dearborn Independent. The facts contained in each article may be accepted as authoritative in all instances, having been obtained from officials of the Department of Agriculture or the records of that department.

There has been much discussion of the various phases of farm life and farm management but seldom has the public been given the opportunity to read of the various problems as concisely yet comprehensively as here presented.

It is suggested that each story, and there are six, be followed closely by those who are interested in such things. The illustrations provided are profuse and appropriate. In this edition, for instance, there is a diagram, together with splendid photographs, of the model farm as worked out by the Department of Agriculture.

time in going from it to different parts of the farm establishment; for the distance between the dwelling and barn and the field to be worked may be an important factor in farming economy.

"The farmer who desires to obtain the greatest possible results from his operations, whether he be already established or just entering upon his venture, may profit by the example of some of our industrial establishments, where, to reduce cost of production, or to increase the output, whole plants have been remodeled or entirely new plants erected, all carefully arranged to meet the particular requirements of the work to be done," says the Department of Agriculture.

"The planning of a farmstead layout involves the arrangement of the various buildings, yards, lots, and so on, with relation each to the other, to the fields and to the highway, in such manner that there shall be a minimum of time consumed, no retracing of steps, and no lost motion in executing the work of the farm.

"Pleasing architectural effects, tempered with economy in materials and construction, should be sought in the designing of the buildings, such as barns, stables and the smaller structures, but the first consideration is that of utility.

"The amount of money invested in a house should be such that the net income of the farm